

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15
SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 LAB-04 SIL-01
DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 DLOS-09 /141 W
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R 250510Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1595
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN
ERDA HQ WASHINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 7364

USOECDD

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, AS
SUBJ: WATERSIDE UNION BANS ON HANDLING AUSTRALIAN URANIUM

REF: (A) CANBERRA 4791, (B) CANBERRA 4974

1. WATERSIDE WORKERS FEDERATION (WWF) BRANCHES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA, IN INCREASING NUMBERS, ARE GOING TO REFUSE TO HANDLE URANIUM EXPORTS AFTER NOVEMBER 15 IF GOA DOES NOT INDICATE ITS INTENTION OF CONDUCTING A URANIUM REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE PUBLICLY IF URANIUM MINING, MILLING AND EXPORT SHOULD BE PERMITTED IN AUSTRALIA. TO DATE, GOA HAS SHOWN NO INDICATION OF HOLDING A REFERENDUM SPECIFICALLY ON THE URANIUM ISSUE, BUT RUMORS PERSIST THAT A FEDERAL ELECTION
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WILL TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER 1977 AND URANIUM ISSUE COULD BECOME AN ISSUE IN THAT ELECTION.

2. IN JULY 1977 MELBOURNE (REF A) AND BRISBANE (REF B) BRANCHES OF WWF BANNED THE LOADING OF YELLOWCAKE OR HANDLING ANY SHIPS CARRYING IT. HOWEVER, THE BRISBANE BAN ANNOUNCED IN JULY HAS NOT BEEN TOTALLY EFFECTIVE AS URANIUM FROM MARY

KATHLEEN MINE HAS CLEARED THE BRISBANE PORT WITH ASSISTANCE OF LOCAL WWF. NO URANIUM-BEARING SHIPS HAVE TRANSITED MELBOURNE SINCE THE JULY DEMONSTRATIONS (REF A).

3. SYDNEY WWF HAS BEEN HANDLING URANIUM FROM AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AAEC) AT LUCAS HEIGHTS, BUT THEY HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A BAN ON HANDLING URANIUM PER PARA ONE ABOVE. WWF MEMBERS IN ADELAIDE, DARWIN AND WYNDHAM, WESTERN AUSTRALIA HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO BAN URANIUM MOVEMENTS AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT SEVERAL OTHER WWF LOCALS WILL FOLLOW SUIT SHORTLY.

4. A SHIPMENT OF 390 TONNES OF URANIUM FROM AAEC STOCKPILE AT LUCAS HEIGHTS IS DUE TO BE SHIPPED IMMINENTLY FROM SYDNEY AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SHIPMENT WILL BE MADE PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 15 TO AVOID ANY POTENTIAL UNION CONFRONTATION.

5. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT GOA HAS CONTINGENCY PLAN TO MOVE URANIUM THROUGH PORTS SHOULD UNIONS BAN URANIUM HANDLING. SCHEME APPARENTLY INVOLVES THE USE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TO MOVE URANIUM BY HELICOPTER TO NAVY OR CIVILIAN SHIPS WAITING OFFSHORE.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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